



CITES UPDATE #66
November 1998

Dear CITES Cooperator:

We would like to inform you of the following:

NEW CITES SECRETARIAT NOTIFICATIONS: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Management Authority (OMA) recently received CITES Secretariat Notifications to the Parties Nos. 1998/48-1998/54. Listed below are summaries of the Notifications that we feel might be of interest to our CITES cooperators. We would appreciate it if any CITES cooperators who request copies from OMA would please limit their requests to specific Notifications:

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| 1998/48 | <p><u>Consolidated Resolution on Cetaceans</u></p> <p>Summary: This Notification includes a copy of the draft consolidated resolution on cetaceans (Doc. 10.24 Annex 1) presented by the CITES Secretariat on behalf of the Standing Committee at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP10). The Secretariat is circulating it to the Parties for comments per a request from the delegation of Japan. The comments will be used to revise the draft, which will then be discussed at COP11. In this Notification, the Secretariat invites the Parties to submit comments on the draft consolidated resolution. The due date for submission is December 3, 1998.</p> |
| 1998/49 | <p><u>Animal Species Commonly Bred in Captivity</u></p> <p>Summary: This Notification includes guidelines for preparing proposals for species to be included in the List of Commonly Bred Species. Resolution Conf. 10.16 refers to the production of a list of species commonly bred in captivity. This list will be prepared by the Standing Committee, based on proposals submitted by the Animals Committee after consultation with the range states and relevant experts. In order to ensure adequate consultation by members of the Animals Committee, Parties are asked to provide proposals to the Secretariat no later than December 20, 1998.</p> |

We ask those CITES cooperators who wish to propose species for inclusion in the List of Commonly Bred species to please send such proposals to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Scientific Authority (OSA) by December 6, 1998.

- 1998/50 Control of Operations Breeding Appendix-I Species in Captivity (Continuation)
Summary: This Notification includes information concerning an operation in Canada to be included in the Register of Operations that Breed Specimens Included in Appendix I in Captivity for Commercial Purposes.
- 1998/51 Control of Operations Artificially Propagating Specimens of Appendix-I Species (Continuation)
Summary: This Notification includes information on the name change of a registered nursery artificially propagating specimens of Appendix I species.
- 1998/52 Scientific Institutions Entitled to the Exemption Provided in Article VII, Paragraph 6, of the Convention (Continuation)
Summary: This Notification includes information on additional scientific institutions entitled to the exemption for non-commercial loan, donation or exchange of museum and herbarium specimens provided by Article VII, paragraph 6, of CITES.
- 1998/53 Marking of Specimens of Sturgeon Exported from China
Summary: This Notification includes details of the label used by China for the marking of specimens of sturgeon, in particular caviar, for export.
- 1998/54 Disposal of Confiscated Live Specimens
Summary: This Notification includes information concerning the disposal of confiscated live specimens. Resolution Conf. 10.7 provides guidelines for the development of an action plan for seized and/or confiscated live specimens. The guidelines recommend identifying a contact authority in the country of origin, to be annotated in the CITES Directory. The guidelines also recommend identifying approved facilities and programs located within the country that are willing to accept confiscated live specimens of particular taxa. This Notification reminds the Parties of the two recommendations and encourages them to supply the requested information.

PROPOSED DETERMINATION OF THREATENED STATUS FOR THE KOALA: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) published a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* on September 22, 1998 (63 FR 50547), proposing to determine threatened status for the Australian koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA). The eucalyptus forest and woodland ecosystem on which this arboreal marsupial depends has been reduced by more than half and is continuing to deteriorate. The species also is threatened by habitat fragmentation and consequent potential loss of genetic viability, disease, and various other factors. The Service seeks relevant data and comments from the public.

This proposal incorporates a finding that a petition requesting the listing of the koala is warranted. If made final, it would extend the ESA's protection to this species.

Comments should be sent to OSA. The Service will consider all information and comments received by December 21, 1998.

Copies of this proposed rule are available upon request from OSA or on our Website.

PROPOSED RULE ON CAIMAN: The Service published a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* on September 23, 1998 (63 FR 50850), proposing to reclassify the yacaré (*Caiman crocodilus yacare*, also known as *Caiman yacare*) under the ESA from its current endangered status to threatened status because the endangered listing does not correctly reflect the present status of this animal. The Service also proposes to list the common caiman (*Caiman crocodilus crocodilus*) and the brown caiman (*Caiman crocodilus fuscus*) as threatened by reason of similarity of appearance.

The yacaré is native to Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Bolivia, and the other two caiman occur in Mexico and Central and South America. These three taxa are listed in Appendix II of CITES. Listing the two taxa as threatened by reason of similarity of appearance will assist in protecting the yacaré caiman from uncontrolled use.

The Service also proposes a special rule for these three taxa that would allow U.S. commerce in caiman skins, other parts, and products from individual countries of origin and countries of re-export if certain pre-trade conditions are satisfied for those countries. The purpose of this special proposed rule is to promote the conservation of the yacaré caiman by ensuring proper management of the commercially harvested caiman species in the range countries and through implementation of trade controls as described in the CITES tagging resolution to reduce commingling of caiman specimens.

Comments on this proposed rule should be sent to OSA. The Service will consider all information and comments received by December 22, 1998.

Copies of the proposed rule are available upon request from OSA or on our Website.

PROPOSED RULE ON EXPORT OF MISSOURI RIVER OTTERS: The Service published a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* on September 30, 1998 (63 FR 52226), announcing proposed findings by the CITES Scientific and Management Authorities (OSA and OMA) on the export of river otters (*Lontra canadensis*) taken in the State of Missouri, and to propose the addition of Missouri to the list of States and Indian Nations approved for export of river otter skins. This approval is on a multi-year basis. The Service proposes to apply these findings to river otters taken in Missouri during the 1998-1999 season and subsequent seasons, subject to the conditions applying to other approved States.

The comment period on this proposed rule closed on October 30, 1998. Copies of the proposed rule are available upon request from OSA or on our Website.

FINAL RULE ON BRAZIL'S BIGLEAF MAHOGANY: The Service published a final rule in the *Federal Register* on October 30, 1998 (63 FR 58325), announcing an amendment to the CITES Appendix III listing of bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) to include Brazil as a listing country along with Costa Rica and Bolivia. The species in the Americas and its logs, sawn wood, and veneer sheets have been included in Appendix III since November 16, 1995, based on an action by the Government of Costa Rica. The change to the Appendix III listing for the Bolivian population of the species entered into force on March 19, 1998, and was announced in a final rule published by the Service on May 14, 1998.

Recently, the Government of Brazil supplied information to the CITES Secretariat to independently include its population in Appendix III. The change to the Appendix III listing for the Brazilian population of the species entered into force on July 26, 1998.

Copies of this final rule are available upon request from OSA or on our Website.

FACT SHEET ON THE U.S. PLANT RESCUE CENTER PROGRAM: Enclosed for your information is a copy of a fact sheet entitled "What You Need to Know About The U.S. Plant Rescue Center Program." This fact sheet, recently prepared by the Service, provides information about this Program, established by the Service to care for plants confiscated by the U.S. Government due to noncompliance with CITES import/export requirements. It includes the criteria for selection of an institution as a volunteer plant rescue center, procedures for assignments of plants to rescue centers, and other information.

FACT SHEET ON THE PROCESS FOR BECOMING AN OBSERVER AT A COP: Enclosed for your information is a copy of a fact sheet entitled "What You Need to Know About The Process for Becoming an Observer." This fact sheet, recently prepared by the Service, provides information about observers at CITES meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COPs) and how an organization applies to become an observer.

U.S. RESPONDS TO NOTIFICATION CONCERNING TRADE IN CITES SPECIMENS USED IN TRADITIONAL MEDICINES: In early May 1998, OMA received CITES Notification No. 1998/20 from the Secretariat. This Notification asked that Parties submit to the Secretariat information concerning CITES specimens used in traditional medicines, including information on any national legislation measures they have taken to control import and export of medicinal products containing parts or derivatives of CITES species, any identification techniques they may have for parts and derivatives used in traditional medicine, and details of any captive breeding and artificial propagation that may be underway in their countries to supply products for traditional medicines. On September 8, 1998, OMA submitted the United States' response to this Notification to the Secretariat.

Copies of the United States' response are available upon request from OMA.

PROBE OF INTERNATIONAL REPTILE TRADE ENDS WITH KEY ARRESTS: On September 15, 1998, the Service issued a news release announcing the arrest of an

international wildlife dealer and the apprehension of two individuals on Federal charges related to the smuggling and sale of endangered and protected reptiles.

Copies are available upon request from OMA or on our Website at <http://www.fws.gov/r9extaff/pubaff.html>.

THREE INDICTED FOR ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING IN REPTILES: On October 30, 1998, the U.S. Department of Justice issued a news release announcing the indictment of three individuals for illegally trafficking in reptiles

Copies are available upon request from OMA.

Sincerely,

Teiko Saito, Chief
Office of Management Authority

Dr. Susan S. Lieberman, Chief
Office of Scientific Authority

Enclosures

All documents referred to above are available on request from the Office of Management Authority. Address correspondence to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Dr., Room 700, Arlington, VA 22203. Telephone (703): Office of Management Authority (OMA) 358-2095, Fax 358-2298; Office of Scientific Authority (OSA) 358-1708, Fax 358-2276; Office of Law Enforcement (LE) 358-1949; Fax 358-2271. Address E-mail requests to: r9oma_cites@mail.fws.gov.